

## **Coal Creek Watershed Coalition**

Minutes: June 28, 2006

The meeting began at 4 PM. Those in attendance were: Anthony Poponi, Paul Hornbeck, Steve Glazer, Tyler Martineau, and Harvey Castro.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### **Agenda**

#### **4 Items to Discuss\***

1. August and October Sampling Events
2. Joe Ryan – Colorado University – Sampling
3. US Energy's Stormwater Management Plan
4. TAG Application Update

\*Some items from the agenda were tabled for future meetings

#### **1. August and October Sampling Events**

A discussion related to our approach to sampling both this summer and the future revolved around how many sites we would sample for and where those sites would be located.

Tyler expressed concerns over the source of metal contributions entering Coal Creek downstream of the Iron Fen seen in the April EPA sampling. At this point metal contributions from the second culvert carrying water alongside the road from the fen cannot be separated out from those entering from other points downstream.

Steve G. mentioned the addition of the sites to identify stream impacts from the Jokerville Mine. Further discussion related to sampling revolved around item #2 below.

#### **2. Joe Ryan – Colorado University - Sampling**

Water sampling by Dr. Ryan of CU included every tributary flowing in early June along Coal Creek. The results of this sampling could be very useful in helping the CCWC determine our future sampling locations.

Though Dr. Ryan's funding has been exhausted the Outreach program at CU can provide funding for Dr. Ryan to help us if his assistance is requested. Dr. Ryan is willing to help with early spring sampling events and it was determined that his help in catching different "slugs" of runoff would be invaluable. Our approach may be to collect samples as different elevations of the mountain begin to melt in an attempt to address where the major loading sources are located.

Anthony will contact Dr. Ryan to request CUs future involvement in spring sampling next year and also to see if the results from his most recent sampling would be available by our next meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **3. US Energy's Stormwater Management Plan**

Steve G. received the stormwater management plan from US Energy this month. Part of the plan included a large map of the site. Items of interest on the site include four tailings ponds with drains directing groundwater into a retention pond and a pipeline directing discharge from the "2160 Adit" to the waste water treatment plant. The tailings ponds have been filled, capped, and revegetated.

Stormwater entering the ponds exits through a decant system, flows east, and discharges into Coal Creek below the WWTP outfall. Members of the Coalition expressed concern over what course of action we have in reducing stormwater inputs coming off this site and ending up in Coal Creek. Members of the Coalition agreed it's imperative to have URS and Dr. Ryan aware of the need for precise sampling along Coal Creek from the Iron Fen downstream past the Keystone Mine outfall to ensure we can pinpoint the source(s) of metal loading in this area.

The stormwater management permit is a general permit issued throughout the state with specific site related issues addressed on a case by case basis in the stormwater management plan. This permit expires in September and members of the Coalition want to make sure we are involved in commenting on the new permit. The WWTP and the stormwater management plan were both inspected by Mike Havens in June. Steve G. requested the results of that inspection but they will not be released until a final report is completed.

Steve G. suggested that Tyler should continue to act as a consultant to the county and Town of Crested Butte. Tyler indicated the funds for his previous consulting contract have been exhausted. Steve G. will initiate a meeting with the county's attorney David Baumgarten regarding a renewal of the consulting contract.

#### **4. TAG Application Update**

Steve G. submitted a letter of intent to the EPA regarding the plans to apply for a TAG grant. The organization applying for the grant will be called the Standard Mine Technical Advisory Group (SMTAG). The EPA has announced our intentions in the paper and we must wait one month to see if any other groups or individuals would like to apply for the grant.

The SMTAG must apply for non-profit status with the state and the EPA has indicated we should be a 501(c)3 as well. The Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group generously gave the CCWC their minutes, TAG application, and bylaws to use as a template for the SMTAG. Anthony edited the documents as needed to use for the SMTAG.

A discussion of Board members and possible Technical Advisors ensued. Tyler said he would consider serving as a board member; however, he was concerned that there might be a conflict. He also said he wouldn't be an appropriate Technical Advisor since his expertise is outside of the field of mining remediation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.